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preliminary list*
LAW OF THE SEA
STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 12 July 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Greece, dated 29 June 1995 (A/50/264-S/1995/526), I must take strong exception regarding its tone and content.

To begin with, the letter of Mr. Zacharakis aims once again at distorting facts and fails to address the main issues in focus and in that respect stands to be out of context.

Unfortunately, it appears that Greece still continues to stand by its past irredentist aspirations. Since the foundation of the nation State of Greece some 160 years ago, on five occasions it has tripled the size of its territory, mostly against Turkey. Two other attempts by Greece at expansion towards the east were repulsed, in Anatolia in the 1920s and in the eastern Mediterranean region in the 1970s.

On the other hand, in the course of these 160 years, Turkey has not acquired an inch of Greek territory.

* A/50/50/Rev.1.

The foreign policy of the Republic of Turkey has been one of moderation. Turkey has had no territorial ambitions beyond its national borders. Unlike Hellenism, which, as a national ideology, has no limits, the Turkish national pact aims to preserve the existing Turkish borders. Turkey continues to respect fully the territorial integrity of all its neighbours, including Greece.

As for the Cyprus issue, the Turkish intervention in 1974 was based on an international treaty and therefore was totally legitimate. Mr. Zacharakis should also recognize the responsibility of his country in the current state of affairs in Cyprus, by perpetrating a coup d'état in 1974 with the aim of annexing Cyprus to Greece.

The Greek allegation that Turkey poses a threat to Greece is by all measures a misrepresentation. Such an allegation is used by Greece as a pretext for its expansionist goals and hostile attitude towards Turkey. It is Greece that has territorial ambitions in areas beyond its territories, not only in the Aegean, but also in the eastern Mediterranean, Thrace, Macedonia and Epirus. The new military defence doctrine of Greece, which is based on the concept of establishing a single Hellenic space, is an expansionist and offensive military posture based on race. Such a posture presents a major threat to peace and stability in our region. Furthermore, Greece's alignment with the terrorist organizations that harbour futile aspirations against Turkey's territorial integrity and political unity is common knowledge. We find the current and unqualified support given by Greece to terrorism, which is internationally recognized as the main threat to humanity, most deplorable.

I should like to confirm that Turkey is determined not to compromise its basic legal rights and interests in the Aegean in the face of Greek designs.

But looking to the future, I should like to reaffirm our readiness to engage in a process of meaningful dialogue to achieve mutually acceptable, just and equitable solutions to all our differences through result-oriented negotiations. We continue to believe that the betterment of Turkish-Greek relations is in the best interests of both nations and is essential for the promotion of much-needed stability in our region.

I should like to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 39, 75 and 81 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Permanent Representative